

## The Refrigerator

Refrigerators are one of the biggest energy guzzling appliances, consuming 27% of the total household electricity used. You may consider some of these options to cut down on your costs:

- Get rid of a second refrigerator. Older models require more electricity to run than new ones.
- Limit the number of times you open the door.
- Check the door sealing. Make sure it is tight.
- Cover all foods and drinks.
- Keep the refrigerator as full as possible.
- Place the refrigerator away from heat sources such as sunlight, ovens, and dishwashers.

*100 copies of this brochure were printed at a cost of 50 ¢ per copy.*

**South Dakota  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre SD 57501**

Call: 800-332-1782  
Fax: (605) 773-3809

**South Dakota  
Public Utilities  
Commission**

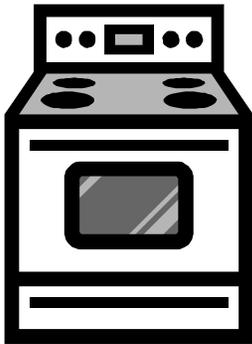
## Using Household Appliances

Wise Energy Tips



## The Stove

- Keep burners clean to help reflect heat.
- When possible use a pressure-cooker instead of stove-top cooking, or a crockpot for long cooking periods.
- Match the pan size to the size of the burner.
- Cook with tight-fitting lids.
- Use a small amount of water to cook foods. Start with the dial on high and turn down to simmer.
- Cook several dishes at once and freeze excess portions to be reheated.
- Avoid opening the oven door.
- Use "preheat" sparingly, if at all.



## The Washer & Dryer

- 90% of the energy used for washing goes toward heating the water. Consider using a lower temperature for most loads and use a cold-water rinse.
- Select lower water levels for smaller loads.
- Front-loading washing machines can save 1/3 more energy and water than top-loading machines.
- Load the washer to capacity.
- Install washer as close to water heater as possible. Insulate hot water pipes between the water heater and the washer.
- Gas dryers save more energy than electric dryers.
- Buy a dryer vent hood to block air infiltration.



## The Dishwasher

- Nearly 80% of the energy used by a dishwasher relates to heating water.
- Contrary to popular beliefs, when used efficiently, a dishwasher saves more water than washing by hand.
- Select a "no heat" dry cycle. Open the dishwasher's door to allow the dishes to air dry.
- Wash full loads.
- Operate the dishwasher during the less expensive "non-peak" evening hours.

South Dakota  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre SD 57501

Call: 800-332-1782  
Fax: (605) 773-3809

Website: [www.state.sd.us/puc/](http://www.state.sd.us/puc/)